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From: CN=Thomas Fontaine/OU=COR/O=USEPA/C=US
Sent: Thur 6/16/2011 10:39:56 PM
Subject: Fw: Bristol Bay Trip summary and follow-up actions from OW
[Assessment Overview 5-24-11.docx](#)

somehow I missed this and would have forwarded to you last week. nothing critical but good background

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----- Forwarded by Thomas Fontaine/COR/USEPA/US on 06/16/2011 03:38 PM -----

From: Jeff Frithsen/DC/USEPA/US
To: Becki Clark/DC/USEPA/US@EPA, Darrell Winner/DC/USEPA/US@EPA, David Bussard/DC/USEPA/US@EPA, Gina Perovich/DC/USEPA/US@EPA, Michael Slimak/DC/USEPA/US@EPA, Thomas Fontaine/COR/USEPA/US@EPA
Date: 06/06/2011 05:58 AM
Subject: Fw: Bristol Bay Trip summary and follow-up actions from OW

FYI.... I thought folks would appreciate reading this background provided by Palmer Hough (OW-OWOW-Wetlands) who accompanied Bob Sussman and Nancy Stoner on their recent trip to the Bristol Bay area. (I understand there is another story about sleeping on floors, but we'll save that for another time.)

The summary talks about getting Paul Anastas involved in the weekly conversations between Region 10 and OW. The Bristol Bay weekly meeting is held on Wednesday's at 5:00 EST. I was recently asked to participate and have been on one call thus far.

An outline of the Bristol Bay Assessment is attached. As further background, ORD senior management for the Bristol Bay Assessment is provided by Mike Slimak and Tom Fontaine. The ORD technical team

includes: Jeff Frithsen, Glenn Suter, Kate Schofield (NCEA); Jim Wigington, Joe Eversole (NHEERL), and Barbara Butler (NRMRL). I'm looking into augmenting the ORD team with contractor support.

Becki: I suggest that this be shared with Kevin Teichman as an update. Would you like me to pass it along?

Jeff

----- Forwarded by Jeff Frithsen/DC/USEPA/US on 06/06/2011 08:47 AM -----

From: Palmer Hough/DC/USEPA/US
To: Denise Keehner/DC/USEPA/US@EPA, David Evans/DC/USEPA/US@EPA, Jeff Frithsen/DC/USEPA/US@EPA, Ann Campbell/DC/USEPA/US@EPA
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Date: 06/04/2011 02:23 PM
Subject: Bristol Bay Trip summary and follow-up actions

Denise/Dave/Jeff/Ann:

We just wrapped up our 3 day trip through Bristol Bay and I can say that I have never been on a field visit that has been more helpful in improving my understanding of the issues, the natural resources involved, and the perspectives of those most potentially affected by an action on EPA's part. Region 10 is to be commended for the outstanding job it did organizing such an informative and effective visit in such a remote place. I am still digesting all that I saw and heard but I wanted to share with you now a very brief summary of the trip, some specific follow-up actions that Bob and Nancy have identified, and some other actions that need attention.

Summary: Day one included a briefing from the Pebble Limited Partnership regarding their proposed mine project followed by a visit to the proposed mine site via helicopter (the only way to access the remote site). Later that day we had the first (Newhalen) of five public meetings with native villages/towns close to the mine. At this first meeting we heard from locals who were both for and against the mine project. On day two, we conducted two more public meetings in different villages (Ekwok and New Stuyahok), these villages expressed only opposition to the mine. Also on day two, we toured significant segments of the Nushagak, Mulchatna and Koktuli rivers downstream from the Pebble mine site. On day three, we met with village leaders in a fourth village (Koliganek) and conducted a large public meeting in Dillingham. At these meetings we again only heard opposition to the mine project. Transportation between villages was via small plane and boat and provided an invaluable opportunity to gain a perspective of the landscape at issue.

The limited support we heard for the mine project during the first meeting was focused almost exclusively on jobs/econ development. Concerns raised by those opposed to the mine focused on a broad range of potential impacts to the environment, fishery, wildlife, human health, the subsistence way of life and existing jobs/economy associated with the fishery/wildlife. At the public meeting in Dillingham, former Alaska first lady Bella Hammond stated that she "can't find any positive things to say about this [mine] project". In expressing her support for EPA action, she described EPA as the "most important agency in the world" because of its mission to protect human health and the environment.

Follow-up actions identified by Bob and Nancy:

- Add Paul Anastas to the regular weekly calls with Bob regarding Bristol Bay. R10 (Dennis) and OW (Nancy)

already participate, in light of ORD's critical role in the effort, they would like to ensure that Paul is included.
- Within the next two weeks, brief Bob, Nancy, Dennis and Paul on the details of the BB assessment effort (i.e., objective, key tasks, progress on key tasks thus far, overall workplan and schedule).

Other actions that need attention:

Ex. 5 - Deliberative

Thanks, Palmer

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